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{page 3}

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Wednesday, October 5, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Beal protester targeted by police, parents say

- Teen's parents filing complaint against police after daughter's arrest
- Parents say they asked for ambulance, police should not have come

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Sultan Sultan, left, and Afaf Elkhalil, both 48, sit on their front porch yesterday with a broom handle they said their daughter had in her hand when police came to the Josselyn Drive house Sunday. Police have said Maha Sultan, inset, 18, was wielding a large metal pipe before she was arrested. Maha didn't threaten officers, her parents said.

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

The parents of a teen arrested Sunday for threatening police want to tell their side of the story.

There was no "disturbance" at their Josselyn Drive house as police have reported, and 18-year-old Maha Sultan wasn't wielding a weapon when police came to the door, her parents said.

"She had been sweeping up in her room (before she went to the door)," Maha's mother, Afaf Elkhalil said. "It was the handle for a broom."

Police did not respond to a request for comment yesterday on the family's allegations.

Maha — charged with possession of a dangerous weapon, assaulting a peace officer and uttering threats — is being targeted, her parents said, because she was outspoken during last week's protest against police. Students at Beal high school, which Maha attends, organized the protest after police used a Taser on one of their 17-year-old classmates during an altercation.

Sultan Sultan, Maha's father, said he called 911 Sunday evening and requested an ambulance because his daughter hadn't been acting right for several days. Maha has been diagnosed with anxiety and depression and has spent weeks at a time in the hospital, her parents said.

Her latest mood swings started, they said, after she didn't make her school's basketball team.

"This is not a situation where we call police. We called an ambulance because Maha's sick, she's ill."
SULTAN SULTAN, MAHA SULTAN'S FATHER

"She was very unsettled," Sultan said about Maha's emotional state on Sunday. "There's no disturbance, there's no fight. There's nothing."

When police arrived, they knocked on the door, and Maha looked out a nearby window with the broom handle in tow, said Sultan, who was watching from outside. She told them to leave and walked away.

Two police officers then began pounding on the front door. When Maha let them in, the officers pushed her to the ground and kicked her several times, he said.

Maha was taken outside, where Sultan said officers continued to "beat" her. One of the officers came in the house and started searching for the object Maha had in her hand, the girl's mother said.

Elkhalil told the female officer she couldn't search the house without a warrant, and she left. The pipe police took as evidence likely came from the front yard, Elkhalil and Sultan said, where a worker had been installing a satellite earlier.

Elkhalil has been charged with obstructing a public peace officer. That charge was laid, she said, after she ran outside to show officers Maha's medical records to prove that she has mental problems.

Elkhalil has a court date later this month. Maha is expected to have a bail hearing today, her father said.

1 news

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On the web at metronews.ca

The federal Liberals say the government needs to fight harder against mental illness and suicide. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Cyber-crime cops help in Quebec

London police's Cyber Crime Unit played a key role in the rescue of a young female victim and the arrest of a Québec resident on sexual assault and child pornography charges.

London detectives uncovered offences related to a female under the age of 16. As the probe unfolded, they liaised with the RCMP and the Sureté du Québec's (SQ) unit that investigates sexual exploitation of children on the Internet.

Eric Rivard of Châteauguay was arrested last Thursday. The 33-year-old is charged with numerous child pornography offences as well as sexual assault. METRO

METRO FILE

▶ Kyle Flemington

Flemington suspended

London Knights defenceman Kyle Flemington has been suspended for 15 games.

He will be eligible to return Friday, Nov. 11 against the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. In Friday's game against the Wolves, Flemington was assessed a five-minute major and game misconduct for checking to the head for his hit on Sudbury forward Jacob Harris. METRO

Spoon. Fulls

▶ Judges dig in yesterday during a chili contest at Fanshawe College. From left: United Way's Paul Seed, London Knights captain Jarred Tinordi, student union president Veronica Barahona, London Majors co-owner Roop Chanderdat and Scott Porter, the college's vice-president of finance and corporate services.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Fanshawe launches United Way drive

The competition between Chartwells food service, the student union and the school of tourism and hospitality started Fanshawe's United Way campaign, which has a fundraising goal of $105,000. Chartwells chef Kyle Vermeulen won the contest for a third consecutive year, with chipotle chili with roasted peppers and caramelized onions.

Tax hike on the table

City of London financial head recommends no more than $100 million in city money be spent on development projects Five councillors oppose

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Londoners could see a five-year tax increase to pay for $100 million worth of capital projects.

City council — acting as a committee of the whole — voted 7-5 yesterday on instituting the one per cent tax that would generate $69.4 million by 2016. The city would take on $30.6 million in debt to round out the $100 million.

Couns. Joni Baechler and Nancy Branscombe weren't present for the vote.

Dubbed an "annual special economic levy," the tax would cost the average homeowner $25 to $30 a year. It could only be used for projects meant to spur economic development and would lay the groundwork for growth five years down the road, said Martin Hayward, city treasurer and chief financial officer.

"We're not talking about today or five years ago, we're talking about tomorrow," Mayor Joe Fontana said as he rallied councillors' support for the idea.

The $100 million is expected to be leveraged with additional investments. The money could be used on any number of proposed projects, including a plan to overhaul downtown.

City administrators are expected to create a "business case" for each project and priorities will be established.

Hayward, the chief financial officer, recommended councillors put the one per cent levy in place. He also presented a five-year, 1.5 per cent tax increase. That would generate enough for $100 million worth of projects to be taken on without acquiring debt.

The committee meeting, which was to be followed by a special council meeting, was continuing at Metro's deadline.

News in brief

Speedster trapped

RACING CHARGES. A London man was nabbed by provincial police for driving nearly 90 kilometres per hour above the speed limit.

Huron OPP say they caught an Audi driving 169 km/h in an 80 km/h zone along London Road in South Huron on Monday night around 10 p.m.
AM980/AM980.CA

Monster-truck event planned

SCRAP METAL Monster Jam is coming to the John Labatt Centre for three shows in January.

There will be a show for the monster truck series on Saturday Jan. 14 and two the next day. Monster Jam features Grave Digger, Canada Truck, Higher Education, Aftershock, Krazy Train and others. METRO

Car rammed into house

WOODSTOCK. Police say a stolen Corvette smashed into a couple of parked cars in Woodstock, causing one of them to hit a house. The heavily damaged Corvette circled the block before the driver fled on foot. Total damage is estimated to be about $50,000. Police want to hear from anyone with information.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barlow on water issues

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. Political activist Maude Barlow, an outspoken crusader for Canada's water resources, will give a free presentation tomorrow at 7 p.m. The talk will include discussion on the impact of water privatization in Canada. METRO

MMA fight card takes shape

AGRIPLEX. Two bouts are confirmed for Global Warriors 2: Halloween Havoc, a mixed martial arts event Oct. 29 at the Agriplex in the Western Fair District. Jesse Gross from the Adrenaline Training Center will face Nova Scotia's Ricky Goodall while Taylor Solomon of Port Dover faces Adrenaline's Pete Brown. METRO

Lottery prizes to keep players dreaming

You could be a "very merry millionaire" by the end of the year.

That's the idea that the folks at the London Health Sciences Foundation want everyone pondering as the Win a Million lottery gets rolling.

Tickets went on sale yesterday and can be purchased through midnight Nov. 29 for the $1-million draw on Dec. 20.

But, hey, even if you don't cash in on the big bucks, the consolation prizes aren't all that shabby.

Jewelry, vacations to far-away destinations and smaller cash prizes are a sampling of the goodies that will be offered up in preliminary drawings that start in November.

Don't like those options? No worries. Fancy cars — like a Porsche, a Mercedes, a BMW and a Lexus — are also waiting in the winner's circle.

The fall fundraiser for the London Health Sciences Foundation usually features a home giveaway, but organizers decided to stray from that path this year, said project manager Rita Fieder.

"We want people dreaming," Fieder said.

In the last six years, the lottery has raised about $4.5 million for the foundation.

The money goes toward training, equipment and research at the London Health Sciences Centre.

ANGELA MULLINS

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Dan Ross, president and chief executive officer of the London Health Sciences Foundation, announces the kickoff of the Win a Million Lottery yesterday.

Win a Million

Organizers are taking a new approach to annual fundraiser.

- Tickets are $50 each, three for $100 and nine for $250.
- Get a look at all the prizes, drawing dates and ticket information at winamillionlottery.ca.

Rogers TV, AM980 to team up on election night

Rogers TV and AM980 will simulcast local results and commentary from an experienced political panel on election night.

Beginning at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, there will be interviews with candidates, plus results and analysis for the ridings of London North Centre, London West, London-Fanshawe, Elgin-Middlesex-London, Oxford and Lambton-Kent-Middlesex.

AM980 news director Nathan Smith will be joined in the studio by Rogers TV's Bob Smith. Four other panel members will provide comment, including Prof. Paul Nesbitt-Larking of Huron University College, former candidates Allison Graham (PC), Megan Walker (NDP) and Roger Caranci (Liberal).

Rogers TV can be found on Cable 13.

METRO

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ontario Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty greets supporters with his wife, Terri, centre right, while Liberal candidate Lori Holloway, left, looks on during a campaign stop in Bolton, Ont.

'Ground game' vital in tight race: Prof

Ontario hasn't had a minority government since 1985 Polls open tomorrow 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

A minority government?

You betcha.

At least that's the way things are shaping up in the hours before polls open for tomorrow's provincial election.

Still, there are a few things that could sway the neck-and-neck race between the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives, says Cameron Anderson, a UWO political science professor.

Chief among them, Anderson says, is how well the parties have planned their "ground game."

2007 turnout

- Elgin-Middlesex-London: 53.1 per cent
- London West: 57.8
- London-Fanshawe: 48.2
- London North Centre: 50

SOURCE: ELECTIONS ONTARIO

"How well are they positioned to get out the vote?" Anderson said. "In such a close race … certainly every riding counts."

A new Forum Research poll suggests Dalton McGuinty's Liberals and Tim Hudak's Progressive Conservatives would take 45 seats each. Andrea Horwath's New Democrats would hold the balance of power with 17 seats.

Fifty-four seats are required for a majority.

The tight race suggests there's enough "disagreement" or "unhappiness" with the Liberals for voters to consider their options, Anderson said.

"We've had eight years … with the Liberals.... That, for some, is reason enough to vote against them and, for some, is reason enough to stick with them."

CAMERON ANDERSON, UWO POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

Knox returns, thanks supporters

- Arrives back in U.S. after acquittal in Italy
- Prosecutor could still appeal verdict

TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Amanda Knox talks to reporters in Seattle yesterday. Knox was freed Monday after an Italian appeals court threw out her murder conviction.

Amanda Knox returned to her hometown of Seattle yesterday and was as overcome with emotion as she was a day earlier in Italy, when she was acquitted on murder charges after four years in prison. "Thank you for being there for me," she tearfully told her supporters in front of a crowd of reporters from two continents.

"I'm really overwhelmed right now," she said at a news conference minutes after she was escorted off a British Airways flight out of London.

Knox's life turned around dramatically Monday when an Italian appeals court threw out her conviction in the sexual assault and fatal stabbing of her British roommate in 2007. Yesterday a courtroom picture of Knox crying after the verdict was read appeared on the front pages of newspapers in Italy, the U.S., Britain and around the world.

"I was looking down from the airplane, and it seemed like everything wasn't real."
AMANDA KNOX

After arriving at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Knox, now 24, sobbed at the news conference and held her mother's hand as her lawyer Theodore Simon said her acquittal "unmistakably announced to the world" that she was not responsible for the killing of Meredith Kercher.

After her parents offered their thanks to Knox's lawyers and supporters, Knox spoke briefly, saying, "They're reminding me to speak in English, because I'm having problems with that."

"Thank you to everyone who's believed in me, who has defended me, who has supported my family," she said. "My family's the most important thing to me so I just want to be with them."

Knox's acquittal, fueled by doubts over DNA evidence, stunned the victim's family and angered the prosecution, which insists that she was among three people who killed Kercher, 21. But for Knox's grandmother Elisabeth Huff, "it was like the weight of the world had gone."

"We all are as happy as can be. I can't tell you how long we've been looking forward to this day," Huff told The Associated Press outside her home in West Seattle, a tight-knit community a few miles across Elliott Bay from downtown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON TRANSIT NEWS

Thanksgiving Day, October 10, 2011

Buses will operate on a Sunday schedule on Monday, October 10, 2011 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Downtown Ticket Office will be closed on Monday, October 10. Regular service hours will resume on Tuesday, October 11, 2011.

my bus info

www.ltconline.ca 519-451-1347

Vancouver riot trials may be televised

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES, FILE

▶ Rioters in Vancouver overturn a car after the Vancouver Canucks lost in game seven of the Stanley Cup finals in June.

Audiences who watched whooping young men set cars ablaze and loot stores live on TV after Vancouver's Stanley Cup loss to Boston may soon be invited to tune in again, this time for the accuseds' public shamings in prime time.

The British Columbia government announced in its throne speech on Monday it will respectfully ask Crown prosecutors to push the courts to allow the broadcast of trials of suspected rioters.

Premier Christy Clark told reporters she wants the trials aired because the eruption of violence in downtown Vancouver on June 15 attacked British Columbians' sense of safety.

"Those guys had no problem doing their crimes quite in public," she said Monday. "So I think that they should have no problem being tried in public either."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Russia strengthens law on pedophilia

Russian lawmakers yesterday gave first-round approval to a bill that strengthens punishments for pedophilia, including mandatory chemical castration or life sentences for repeated offences.

The bill would impose chemical castration for sex crimes against minors under 14 by those with a previous conviction. Chemical castration involves administering hormones to curb sexual drive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple unveils faster, more powerful iPhone

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Apple VP Scott Forstall talks about the iPhone 4S during an announcement at Apple headquarters yesterday.

Apple Inc. unveiled a faster, more powerful iPhone yesterday in its first major product event in years without Steve Jobs presiding.

New CEO Tim Cook led the show after Jobs, who has been battling health problems, resigned from the post in August.

Cook, wearing a navy blue button-down shirt and jeans, opened by calling his nearly 14-year tenure at Apple "the privilege of a lifetime." Those in the audience clapped as he entered, but the reaction seemed more muted than what Jobs had recently received.

Cook said the iPhone 4, which came out in June 2010, sold more quickly than previous models, but Apple has just five per cent of the worldwide handset market.

Apple is hoping to grow that with a new model. The new iPhone 4S has an improved camera with a higher-resolution sensor. The processor is faster, which helps run smoother, more realistic action games. It's also a "world phone," which means that Verizon iPhones will be able to useable overseas, just as AT&T iPhones already are.

The new iPhone also comes with new mobile software, iOS 5, that includes such features as the ability to sync content wirelessly, without having to plug the device to a Mac or Windows machine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada tops for business: Forbes

Forbes ranked Canada as the best country for business yesterday, moving up from fourth spot last year, helped by a lower overall tax burden.

"While the U.S. is paralysed by fears of a double-dip recession and Europe struggles with sovereign debt issues, Canada's economy has held up better than most," the influential U.S. business magazine wrote.

Forbes noted that Canada ranked ninth among the 134 countries reviewed for tax burden compared with 23rd in the category for 2010.

Forbes ranked the countries based on 11 different factors including property rights, innovation, taxes, technology, corruption, investor protection and stock market performance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

Dollar	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
- 1.14¢ (94.2¢ US)	$3.638 (+ 2.1¢)
	Gold $1,616.00 (- $41.70)
Oil	**TSX**
- $1.94 US ($75.67 US)	- 73.92 (11,177.91)

No new stimulus unless recession: Flaherty

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty laid out what it would take for him to introduce new stimulus to support the economy and jobs — a new recession.

But Flaherty said he's "relatively confident" that will not happen.

The minister's statements yesterday came minutes before the Toronto Stock Exchange opened with another big selloff and more dark news out of Europe that Greece was edging closer to a debt default.

Taking a cue from European markets, the TSE index was down almost 300 points by mid-morning, after shedding 372 points Monday.

"If we had some sort of world recession, that would change the picture dramatically," Flaherty said of the government's approach.

"But I'm relatively confident that what we're going to see in Canada is modest economic growth over the next little while. I'm comfortable ... with that anticipation for the next little while."

Flaherty said he was willing to throw overboard plans to balance the budget in four years if a slump hit Canada and more stimulus spending is needed.

He also said he believed the loonie's plunge was a temporary phenomenon due to flight to the "perceived safe haven" of the U.S. dollar.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Flaherty

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Yahoo web series to target women

Yahoo Inc. announced yesterday that it will begin premiering seven new web series this week, all targeting female audiences.

That adds to the approximately two dozen original series on Yahoo, which often pull in much higher viewership than other, higher-profile video hubs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

H&M workers seek union

The H&M store at the Square One Shopping Centre in Mississauga could soon be the first of the Swedish-based retailer's more than 50 outlets in Canada to be unionized.

The United Food and Commercial Works union said the Ontario Labour Relations Board has agreed to hold a secret-ballot certification vote at the Mississauga store on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

StatsCan sees harvest boost

Harvest is underway and Western farmers are anticipating higher volumes of barley and wheat this year.

Statistics Canada reports total wheat production in the West is expected to be up three per cent over 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NOBODY'S RIGHT IF EVERYBODY'S WRONG

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

"There's somethin' happenin' here. What it is ain't exactly clear."

That's the opening line from the most famous protest song of the '60s, Buffalo Springfield's For What It's Worth. It was written by Stephen Stills, who went on to Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young fame, and then went on to become old and fat, like most of the other citizens of Woodstock Nation.

But, as my grandma used to say, if you hang around long enough, history will repeat itself, like beans for dinner.

My grandma may have been a bit rude, but she was right. There's a new protest movement in town. It's called Occupy Wall Street, and if the youth of today weren't so prejudiced about classic rock, Steve's song would fit right in: There is somethin' happening here … and what it is ain't exactly clear. And that's putting it mildly.

"Like Woodstock Nation, Occupy Wall Street Nation is a shambolic coalition of leftist ideologues, all-over-the-map 'anarchists,' actual poor people struggling to make ends meet and students ..."

Occupy Wall Street started small in a park near the New York Financial District when 100 people were arrested for being obnoxious on or about Sept. 24, and has grown daily, spreading to other cities in the U.S., Europe and Japan and, of course, Canada, which never wants to be left out.

Occupy Wall Street Nation, spawned by the children of the boomer citizens of Woodstock Nation, is an eerily accurate echo of the original. Stylish, young, technologically hip protesters drape themselves over iconic real estate uttering incoherent slogans.

Back then it was "Smash the state" and "Hell, no, we won't go" and "One, two, three, four — what are we fightin' for?" etc. Today it's "Honk if you're in debt," "Tax the rich," "99 per cent" (as in, 99 per cent are poor; one per cent are rich) and "Compassion is evolutionary"… whatever that means. Slogans and stylin' are more important than policy, which is, after all, complex, boring and contentious. Ee-yew.

Like Woodstock Nation, Occupy Wall Street Nation is a shambolic coalition of leftist ideologues, all-over-the-map "anarchists," actual poor people struggling to make ends meet, and students who naturally support any movement featuring free smoke, free pizza and a chance to meet beautiful people with bells on their toes and rings in their noses.

There's still part of me that wants to stick it to the Man, just like I did back in 1970. Until I remember that I am the Man, man, which is a bummer. When did I get to be the Man? When I got a job? Grew up? Had a family? All of the above?

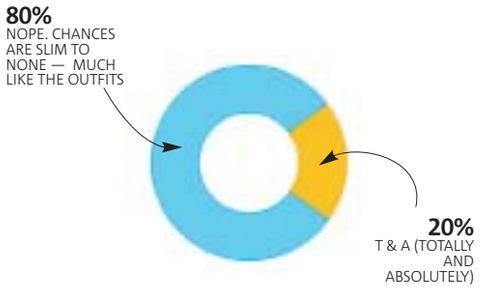
How about that? Four decades later, and it still ain't exactly clear … for what it's worth.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Would you try out for the Lingerie Football League?



Local tweets

- **@Dundas_CC:** It's a gorgeous autumn afternoon in #LdnOnt We hope you have the chance to get out and enjoy it.
- **@LeGiff:** How the hell does a Fed Ex package from Mississauga destined for #Ldnont end up in Calgary? Seriously? I should have had this Friday!
- **@DayaCounselling:** Countdown to turkey time! What are you thankful for, #ldnont? Fact: Being thankful makes us happier. :) So let me hear why you're thankful!
- **@kenziestiller:** OMG a bus driver without a mullet!!! #ldnont
- **@T_Legge:** Classical music at Dundas & Richmond is a great idea, almost makes me want to get hooked on smack and welfare just to hang & listen #LDNOnt
- **@orangeheromama:** Yay!! We finally got our new bluebox!! #ldnont
- **@CommLivLondon:** Wow - almost 200 followers! Thank you to all that are following us! @CommLivLondon #ldnont #Thankyou

Letters

Re: Police brutality and the recent Tasering of a Beal student

So, you think Tasering someone swinging a chair is police brutality?

I invite you to get hit by one. Has anyone considered what might happen if the cop had been hit. A blow from a chair — contrary to what happens in Hollywood movies — does not result in the chair magically breaking apart, leaving the person OK to fight.

Tasers are there so police can make dangerous people controllable. Without such non-lethal weapons the officer might have had to use lethal force. But people never seem to think about that. Somehow they seem to think cops should be able to disarm a violent person by throwing petunias at them.

All those people had to do was put down their weapon as ordered and no further action would have been taken except cuffing them and taking them to jail where they no doubt would have been released. Now they have a more serious charge facing them. Which I'm sure will also be protested.

PAT BROWN
LONDON

Cranberry. Harvest

▶ Miguel Sandel of Middleborough, Mass., rakes cranberries into a loading tube during an afternoon harvest at the Hannula cranberry bogs in Carver, Mass., yesterday.

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Photo of the day

Massachusetts cranberry farmers are expecting a robust crop this fall. Researchers said that growing conditions this summer were optimal, with enough hot days interspersed with the right amount of rain.

WEIRD NEWS

Trekking on an 87-year-old mystery

A proposed expedition to Mount Everest later this year could solve an 87-year-old mystery: Did two British adventurers, George Mallory and Andrew Irvine, reach the top of the mountain?

Mallory and Irvine began their assault on June 6, 1924. They were last spotted around 1 p.m. on June 8, climbing an obstacle. They were, according to Scientific American, less than a kilometre from the summit. And then the weather turned bad and they were never seen again.

Their disappearance has prompted many in the climbing community — and beyond — to speculate on what happened to the pair. More than a half a dozen expeditions have scaled Everest over the years to find the missing men and write the final chapter in their mysterious demise.

The tale of these two climbers has long fired the imagination of Tom Holzel, an Everest historian, climber and American businessman. He's the man behind the latest expedition, which is supposed to head out in December.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Clooney waxes political

Ides of March reflects cynicism of the times, says actor-turned-director That's 'probably good'

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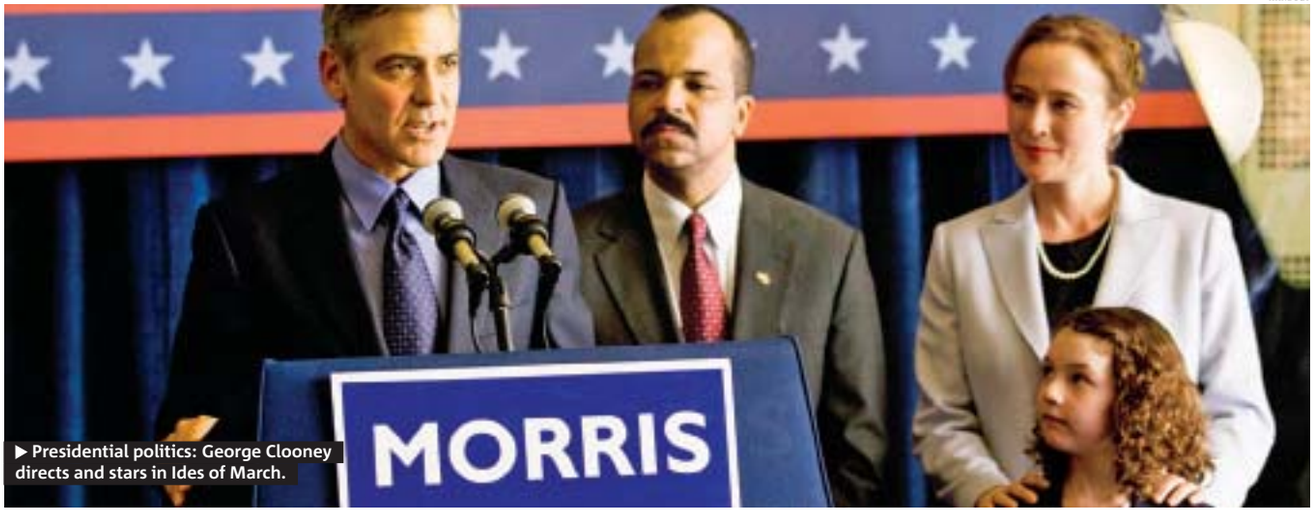


▶ Presidential politics: George Clooney directs and stars in Ides of March.

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

George Clooney's new film, Ides of March, takes what some might call a cynical look at the state of American politics, but that doesn't mean the director and star — ever the optimist — has given up on the system all together.

"I think it's cyclical," he says. "I think we're at a period of time where it's probably not our best moment in politics, but if you look at the things Jefferson and Adams did to each other, the 1800 election was pretty rotten and evil. Things change and are cyclical, so I'm hopeful."

The film, based on Beau Willimon's play Farragut North, follows an idealistic young campaign worker (Ryan Gosling) whose work for a charismatic candidate (Clooney) during the Democratic primary opens his eyes to the underbelly of politics.

But as much as campaign signs and Beltway jargon make up the scenery of Ides of March, Clooney wants to make clear that this is not a political film — at least not the way he sees it.

"I thought of this as a film about moral choices, not about political strife," he says. "I thought it was a fun moral tale, and once you put it in politics it sort of amps up the problems. There isn't a person you have met that hasn't been met with moral questions. Everyone makes moral choices to better themselves and hurt others along the way, whether the means justifies the ends."

In fact, he maintains, the political setting is actually incredibly incidental — especially considering current events. "It could have been better in Wall Street," he offers.

With acclaimed films like Confessions of a Dangerous Mind and Good Night and Good Luck on his resumé, Clooney is proving just as adept as a director as he is as an actor.

So how different is the Clooney behind the camera to the one audiences know? Not very.

"He's pretty much the same guy as George Clooney the actor," he jokes. "Basically the same height, same hair. Pretty much the same."

As for his on-camera work for the film, surely Clooney used some real-life models in portraying a top-ranking politico, right? Not so much, he insists.

"No, there really weren't" any existing public figures used for this basis of his character, Clooney says. "There's just so many ways to get in trouble with this answer. There were enough examples that we just picked little pieces of whatever we wanted."

But he maintains that viewers going out looking for those real-world corollaries are wasting their time. "People think it's about the John Edwards thing, but this was written before the John Edwards thing even broke," Clooney offers as an example.

It's all part of the perception problem people have with movies — especially political movies — and their place in culture, Clooney explains.

"Films don't lead the way. In general it takes about two years to get a film made," he says.

"People think that films somehow are trying to lead society. Mostly we're reflecting the moods and thoughts that are going on in our country and around the world. If this film reflects some of the cynicism that we've seen in recent times, that's probably good. It's not a bad thing to hold a mirror up and look at some of the things we're doing. It's not a bad thing to look at how we elect our officials."

"I thought of this as a film about moral choices, not about political strife."
GEORGE CLOONEY

Nobunny really liked the Club

NBC's Playboy Club is closing early.

The network said yesterday it is cancelling its highly-publicized new drama, The Playboy Club, after only three episodes.

Its time slot will eventually be filled by Brian Williams' new news magazine.

The Monday night drama, set in the 1960s, had only five million viewers for its first episode two weeks ago and kept losing viewers. Nielsen said the show had only 3.5 million viewers this week.

It's the first cancellation of the new fall TV season.

Set in a Chicago club and evoking the era and attitude made fashionable by Mad Men, the drama was hurt by strong competition.

Both Hawaii 5-0 on CBS and Castle on ABC are their networks' strongest 10 p.m. dramas, said Bill Gorman of the website TV By the Numbers.

NBC's drama drew some mixed reviews and protests by activists who tried to encourage an advertiser boycott, deeming the material inappropriate for network television.

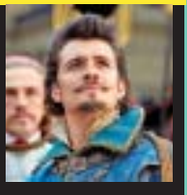
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT DINERSTEIN/NBC

▶ A scene from The Playboy Club.

2 scene

Scene in brief



One for all and all for one: Athos, Porthos and Aramis swashbuckled their way down the red carpet in London for the world premiere of The Three Musketeers in 3D. The trio of actors taking on the legendary characters — Matthew Macfadyen, Ray Stevenson and Luke Evans — were joined at yesterday's launch by Logan Lerman, who plays their hot-headed colleague, D'Artagnan. Other stars at the premiere included Milla Jovovich, who portrays the mysterious Milady; Orlando Bloom, who takes on the dastardly Duke of Buckingham; and director Paul W.S. Anderson of Resident Evil fame. The family adventure sees the 17th-century band of heroes set out to defend the Queen's honour and protect France from war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ralph Fiennes, David Cronenberg to receive career honours at London Film Festival

Rogen resists having kids

▶ Seth Rogen

While he may be a happy newlywed, Seth Rogen is definitely not jumping into starting a family.

"All my friends are having kids and my sister just had a baby last year, and it makes me not want to have kids," the 50/50 star tells iVillage. "It's very nice just playing with (my sister's baby) and then as soon as it becomes difficult, you just hand it off."

As for his relationship with new wife Lauren Miller, Rogen says he's done a lot of growing up.

"I'd like to say that she taught me how to tidy up, but that's been the exact opposite." METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Thomas Jane

Doing what you have to do in Hollywood

Thomas Jane talks about the seedy side of life in L.A.

Hung star Thomas Jane is being remarkably frank about his early days in Hollywood, telling the L.A. Times that he used to perform sexual favours for men to get by.

"When I was a kid out here in L.A., I was homeless. I didn't have any money and I was living in my car. I wasn't averse to going down to Santa Monica Boulevard and letting a guy buy me a sandwich. Know what I mean?" he reveals. "You're a lot more open to experimentation as a young man. And for me, being a young artist and broke in Los Angeles, I was exploring my sexual identity."

"You're a lot more open to experimentation as a young man."
THOMAS JANE

In his own defense, Jane points to a long history of such work in Hollywood.

"As James Dean said, you're going to have one arm tied behind your back if you don't accept people's sexual favours." METRO

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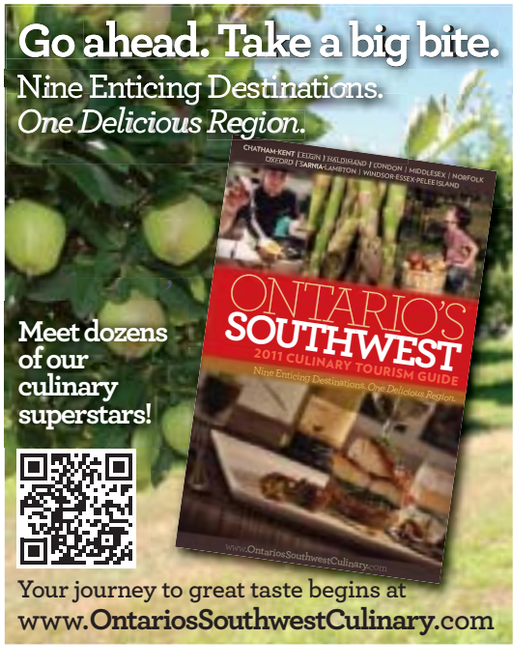
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A dream come true

Cruising on the Disney Dream ship a real treat for this Metro writer's little princess

RUTH ESTWICK
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

COURTESY DISNEY

▶ The Disney Dream is a 'dream' for kids, but also has plenty to keep adults happy, such as lounges, nightclubs and fine dining.

When my four-year-old-daughter Riley and I arrived at the Disney Dream's home port in Port Canaveral, Fla., we knew we were in for the vacation of a lifetime. In fact, Riley was convinced we were setting sail for Never Land!

In reality, we were boarding the newest vessel in the Disney Cruise line collection and setting sail for a two-day adventure to Disney's private island in the Bahamas; Castaway Cay.

The Disney Dream is the third ship in the Disney Cruise Line fleet.

Once aboard, we understood quickly why they named this classic ocean liner the Disney Dream. The name says it all: a breathtaking Grand Atrium, elegance and luxury on each deck, silhouetted by Disney character detail at every turn.

The staterooms, waterslides, restaurants, kids clubs and stage shows were classic Disney imagineering.

We stayed in a spacious, Deluxe Oceanview Stateroom with veranda. Roomy enough to sleep four, this stateroom boasted a queen-size bed with below-bed storage, convertible sofa, split bath and private balcony.

Cruising is all about great food and we dined like Disney Princesses, as Riley would say.

The rotational dining approach allowed us to enjoy a different restaurant every night. The restaurants are themed — which Riley loved.

The Enchanted Garden boasts a garden-inspired decor with a menu that allows you to select choices from around the world including Riley's favourite fish, pan-seared sea bass.

The Animator's Palate, the main dining room, was like being inside a Disney animation studio. The walls were adorned with tools of the trade, the interior magically transformed into a live under-sea, interactive adventure with Crush the Turtle from Finding Nemo.

▶ Ruth and Riley

And Crush got personal, dude.

He would swim from tank to tank asking questions of the diners that generated some gnarly laughs.

There were also many casual dining options on board.

Riley and I have so many Disney Dream memories including the spectacular Pirates of the Caribbean Show, a pirate-themed deck party that included pre-show games hosted by swashbuckling scallywags. The pirate show was so realistic that Riley was convinced we had entered Never Land and were captured by Captain Hook.

Following the show, Buccaneer Blast, a musically synced fireworks show lit up the night sky. Another of Riley's favourite memories?

The Oceaneer's Club, an activity centre for kids aged three to 10.

This supervised play centre is home to Disney-style imaginative worlds.

And while the little buccaneers are at play, there is a lot to do for the adults.

The District is an adults-only entertainment area, complete with lounges and nightclubs.

Riley and I landed back home with a trunkful of memories.

My most cherished? My little girl cuddling up to me midship in an oversized golden throne on our final day and whispering that her favourite part of this magical journey was spending time with me.

▶ The Disney Dream offers breathtaking elegance and luxury.

3 life

Travel in brief

With a little research and planning, family trips can be fun-filled and hassle-free.

Plan Ahead: Use the Internet, travel guides and personal recommendations to research attractions, book a hotel or reserve tickets.

Frequent Stops: For long road trips schedule regular stops along the way.

Double Check: Before you depart ensure the entire family has everything they need.

NEWS CANADA

New Canadian art pavilion in Montreal reflects bustling cultural scene.

Enhance your education with co-ops

STUDENT VOICE

MANWAR KHAN
TALENTEGG.CA

I graduated from the University of Lethbridge with a BSc in computer science. The IT job market is a dog-eat-dog world and I always knew that a simple BSc degree would not be enough to get my foot in the door, which is why I decided to enhance my degree with co-op experience.

A university education teaches you theory, whereas a co-op lets you apply those theories to the real world. I contacted the U of L career centre, researched potential employers and applied to the positions that appealed to me.

I completed a 12-month co-op work term with the Government of Alberta as a project assistant for the Ministry of Employment and Immigration.

Throughout my work term, I was pleasantly surprised with the challenging work and the level of responsibility I was given. My colleagues valued the work I did and my supervisor always encouraged me to take advantage of any learning opportunities.

This co-op experience added significant value to my university studies and gave me a head start in my career. A co-op work-term often serves as a "test drive" for both employers and students to evaluate if they're suitable for employment upon graduation.

My advice to fellow students and recent graduates is to look for a position that offers you an opportunity for learning and advancement.

Research the employer you want to work for so you are able to articulate what you can bring to the table and what you hope to achieve from the experience.

My advice to schools and career centres is to increase awareness of co-op. Employers should provide co-op students with more responsibilities that are relevant to their field of study.

In order to do that, employers should plan the experience in advance so that, whenever possible, levels of difficulty and responsibility increase as the student develops new skills.

With a little bit of responsibility, a confident and enthusiastic student can make a difference.

Where I am now

During my last semester, I received a job offer from a major energy company as an IT analyst.

But that was not my dream job. Ever since my co-op work term with the Government of Alberta, I've wanted to work in the public sector.

So when the Ministry of Employment and Immigration office offered me a position as a business analyst a year later, I seized the opportunity.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Manwar's experience:

- **Research employers** to find out which ones offer what you're looking for, whether it's training, mentorship, lots of responsibility — or all of the above.
- **Test drive** employers during co-op terms and internships to see if you like them (and if they like you).
- **Try to work** in a variety of industries and organizations to find out what kind of work you enjoy doing.

SUBMITTED

▶ Manwar Khan

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Pinch-hit home run gives Phillies series lead

PHILLIES	CARDINALS
3	2

Pinch-hitter Ben Francisco and closer Ryan Madson made manager Charlie Manuel's moves look smart, and the Philadelphia Phillies held off the St. Louis Cardinals 3-2 yesterday for a 2-1 lead in their NL playoff series.

Francisco batted for pitcher Cole Hamels and broke a scoreless game with a three-run homer in the seventh inning.

Madson earned his first multi-inning save of the year. He came in and got Allen Craig to sharply ground into a double play with the bases loaded to escape in the eighth, then worked around Yadier Molina's RBI single in the ninth.

The Phillies can finish off the wild-card Cardinals in Game 4 today, with Roy Oswalt opposing Edwin Jackson. Francisco's shot off Cardinals starter Jaime Garcia was only his second hit in 19 at-bats in the post-season.

"I knew the way the game was going I was probably going to be in there to pinch-hit off a lefty," Francisco said. "I was just trying to get a hit up the middle and he left one up and luckily it got out of here."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIKE CARLSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Rangers celebrate their American League Division Series win over the Rays yesterday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Rays' luck expires

Tampa Bay's Cinderella season fizzles with loss to defending AL champions ◐ Beltre carries Rangers with historic day at the dish

RANGERS	RAYS
4	3

This is what Adrian Beltre envisioned when he signed with Texas in the off-season. Balls jumping off his bat in October, the Rangers making another run for the pennant.

Beltre hit three straight home runs and the defending AL champions advanced again, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 in Game 4 yesterday to win their playoff matchup.

Beltre put on a show that few others have matched, helping Texas take the best-of-five series and ending the Rays' remarkable run to the wild-card spot. Tampa Bay overcame a nine-game deficit against the Boston Red Sox in the wild-card standings in September.

"From my point of view, Texas gave me the best chance to put a ring on my finger," Beltre said. "And I am just two steps away from it. Hopefully that happens."

Ian Kinsler led off the game for Texas by homering on the second pitch from rookie Jeremy Hellickson.

Beltre came into the game in a 1-for-11 slump before breaking loose for maybe his best day as a pro.

"I think besides my first big league hit, this is right up there," said the slugger, who spent last season with the Red Sox.

Beltre became just the seventh player to homer three times in a post-season game, and the first since Adam Kennedy of the Angels in 2002.

Beltre connected in his first three at-bats. Given a chance to tie the big-league record of four homers in a game, he hit a routine fly-out in the eighth.

Neftali Feliz gave up a run in the ninth inning before closing for his third save of the series, preserving the victory for Matt Harrison.

Beltre hit solo shots off Hellickson in the second and fourth innings, and added another solo drive against Matt Moore in the seventh.

Sean Rodriguez scored all three runs for the Rays. He drew a one-out walk and scored on Casey Kotchman's single in the ninth, but Feliz retired the next two batters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA pre-season cancelled as labour talks fail

NBA commissioner David Stern floated it as an idea more than a firm proposal: a 50-50 revenue split.

Even so, the union's reply was unequivocal.

"They said, 'We can't do it,'" according to Stern.

The NBA shelved the rest of its pre-season schedule yesterday and will wipe out two weeks of the regular-season if there is no labour agreement by Monday.

"We were not able to make the progress that we hoped we could make and we were not able to continue the negotiations," Stern said after nearly four hours of talks between owners and players ended without gaining ground on a new deal. No further meetings are scheduled, making it even more likely the league will lose games.

Stern and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver said owners offered players a 50-50 split of basketball-related income. That's below the 57 per cent that players were guaranteed under the previous agreement, but more than the 47 per cent union officials said was formally proposed to them.

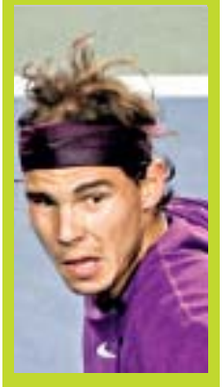
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ NBA Commissioner David Stern, right, listens as deputy commissioner Adam Silver speaks during a news conference following NBA labour talks yesterday.

4 sports

Quoted



"He (Raonic) is a dangerous player for me in the second round. He has one of the biggest serves on the tour."

RAFAEL NADAL, WHO WILL FACE THORNHILL ONT., NATIVE MILOS RAONIC IN THE SECOND ROUND AT THE JAPAN OPEN IN TOKYO. RAONIC BEAT JAPANESE WILD CARD YUICHI SUGITA 6-7 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (1) YESTERDAY IN HIS FIRST ATP WORLD TOUR MATCH SINCE INJURING HIS HIP IN A FALL AT WIMBLEDON IN JUNE.

Scan code for more sports.

5 drive

▶ The new Yaris might have less of a wow factor than cars such as the new Hyundai Accent, but the Yaris's style is practically without flaw. Others have developed more modern powertrains, however, which seems out of step for Toyota, which is normally seen as the natural leader.

Toyota's old dog still barks

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

It used to be that picking a small car was pretty easy: there just weren't that many candidates, plain and simple.

Now it's like trying to pick a puppy from the pound.

There are plenty of cute choices with all kinds of bark and sass, and more keep arriving every day it seems.

In that respect, the Yaris was more of an old dog than a young pup, but the upgrades for the 2012 model year at least keep it fresh enough to belong with newcomers such as the Mazda2, Hyundai Accent, Chevy Sonic and Ford Fiesta.

The first-generation Yaris that lasted for five model years wasn't the liveliest runner on the track, but a roomy interior and low price kept it on the front burner. As well, the tiny Toyota could be had in two or four-door hatchback body styles, as well as a four-door sedan.

There's no word if a trunk-equipped Yaris will again be built, but both hatches return in slightly enlarged formats.

The upgraded, crisper-looking Yaris will remain among the more popular small-car picks, even as the entire category adds variety at a steady clip.

Indeed the pound is getting bigger and the new pups are getting everyone's attention, but at least the Yaris now has enough bark to be noticed.

Toyota Yaris

What you should know about the 2012 Toyota Yaris:

- **Types:** Two- /four-door, front-wheel-drive sub-compact hatchback.
- **Engine (hp):** 1.5-litre DOHC I4 (106).
- **Transmission:** Five-speed manual; four-speed automatic (opt.).
- **Mileage:** 7.0 l/100 km city, 5.7 highway (automatic).

By comparison

Ford Fiesta
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Chevrolet Sonic
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Hyundai Accent
Base price: $14,700
New sedan and hatch feature 138 hp plus 5.9 l/100 km combined rating.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

A3 has a mainly-satisfied owner community

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Audi's entry-level model, the A3, is a five-door hatchback with four- or six-cylinder power, available Quattro AWD and all the flexibility and functionality of an upscale German mini-wagon.

The A3 has been nicknamed the Beverly Hills GTI in some circles, referencing its Volkswagen-based underpinnings and engines.

Feature content included upgraded audio, heated leather, navigation, folding rear seats, a panoramic sunroof and plenty more.

2006 to 2011 Audi A3

Engine

Look for VW Group's two-litre turbo four-cylinder with 200 horsepower, or a 3.2-litre V-6 with 250. Quattro was standard with the six-cylinder engine and available on four-cylinder units later in the A3's life.

What owners like

Existing A3 owners typically rave about styling, build quality, comfort levels, all-season traction and even fuel efficiency on models with the four-cylinder engine. Good ride and handling characteristics round out the package.

What owners dislike

Owners say the A3 won't prove the most comfortable way to haul around four or five adults, and the centre console chews nicely into the driver's right-side knee space. Owners of earlier models typically wished for Bluetooth compatibility, and many report "weak" factory tires.

Common issues

Hard, inconsistent or "sloppy" shifting from the Direct Shift Gearbox (DSG) may be caused by a faulty computer control or "mechatronics" unit, which controls this advanced transmission. Long-term reliability of the DSG gearbox is currently unclear. If you're happy driving a manual, stick to your guns.

Note that sporadic acceleration or a "lumpy" feel to the engine's power delivery could be related to faulty or failing ignition coils.

Verdict

There are more affordable and reliable ways to get around than the A3 — though a largely satisfied owner community suggests that the potential issues are far outweighed by the rewarding year-round driving experience and luxury.

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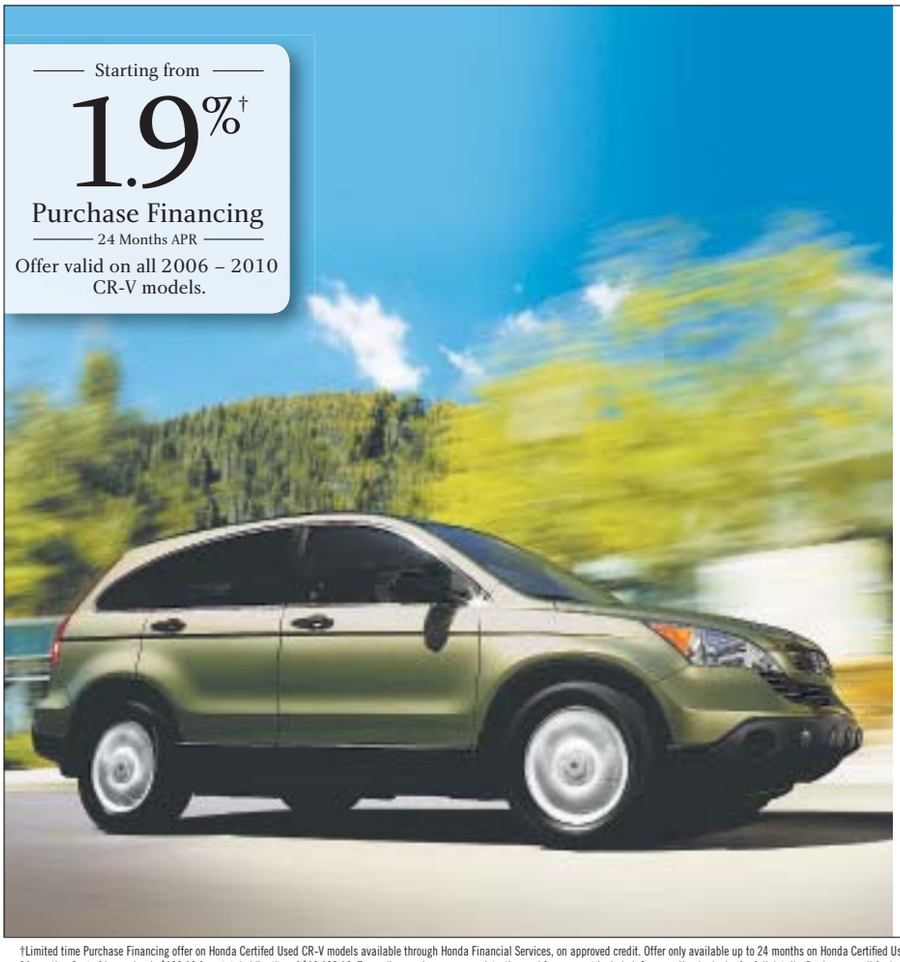

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Perfect for Salmon
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Larger Foot Stool
Nurtural color Good Condition
$10.00
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London Fog Ladies Coat Blue
14 Med with liner
$30
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Men's fleece top & pant, Navy blue by Gant
In good condition. $10.00.
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Fancy gold frame
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According to the Lease by and between the customers listed above listed above and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s)

UPON A COURSORY INSPECTION THE UNITS WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN: 93 Hino cube truck, tool chestshousehold goods, TVs, furniture, bicycle, leather couch, leather chair, kitchen utensils carpet, antiques, clothes, weight bench, electronics, records file cabinets, mattress & bed springs ,suitcases, misc boxes, bags & plastic totes.

Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of at this site on dates and at approximate times listed by the addresses above to satisfy owner lien in accordance with the state statues. Terms of the sale are cash only. No checks will be accepted. All goods are sold in "as is "condition. Tax must be paid or resale numbers furnished. Buyers must provide own lock if needed. Seller reserves the right to overbid. All items or spaces may not be available on date of sale.

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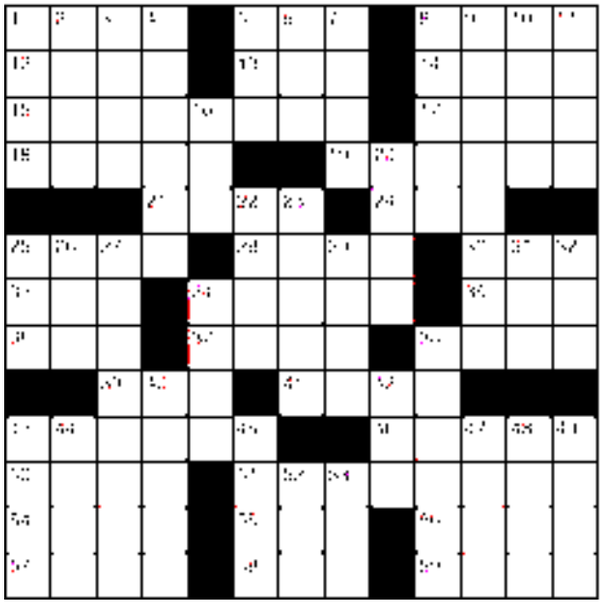
Crossword



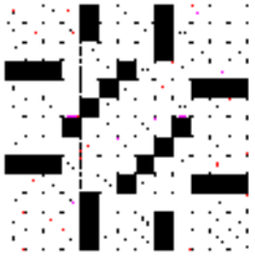
Across

1 007
5 Swelled head
8 Acknowledge
12 Reed instrument
13 Cattle call
14 Options list
15 Bean spiller?
17 Curved lines
18 Left the chair
19 Nickelodeon spillages
21 Afternoon affairs
24 Lennon's lady
25 Use a paper towel
28 Scorch
30 Can. neighbor
33 The whole thing
34 Aquatic flora
35 Kennedy or Koppel
36 Crafty
37 Greenish blue
38 At the home of (Fr.)
39 It's the word
41 Lemon coating
43 Oklahoman
46 Passion
50 Piece of work
51 Cape Cod city
54 Greek cheese
55 Lamb's dam
56 Apportion (out)
57 In need of liniment
58 Gender
59 Old portico

Down

1 Goes up and down
2 Death notice
3 NASA scrub
4 Lower in rank
5 Ostrich's cousin
6 Obtained
7 Ahs' mates
8 Forcefully
9 Martini ingredient
10 Erstwhile
11 Wimpy sort
16 Rhyming tribute
20 Unmatched
22 With skill
23 "— and spice and ..."
25 Existed
26 Under the weather
27 Old Chrysler
29 Hindu princess
31 Witness
32 Wood-shaping tool
34 Pinnacle
38 Data holders
40 Recant
42 "Platoon" setting
43 Couch
44 Oil cartel
45 Deli loaves
47 Song for two
48 "Beetle Bailey" dog
49 Perlman of "Cheers"
52 Great wonder
53 Actor Harrison

▶ Yesterday's answer



Sudoku

	5	2		4		1		
8								3
9		7		6				
1		9	3			6		
	8						7	
		3			9	8		4
				7		5		2
2								1
		1		9		4	6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

6	2	9	3	1	8	4	7	5
4	5	7	9	2	6	1	8	3
3	1	8	7	5	4	6	9	2
7	3	1	2	6	9	5	4	8
2	9	5	8	4	1	7	3	6
8	4	6	5	3	7	9	2	1
9	6	3	1	7	2	8	5	4
5	7	4	6	8	3	2	1	9
1	8	2	4	9	5	3	6	7

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

*Luke, I love you oh so much, its impossible to explain. These past almost two years, seeing you everyday no matter what, and living with each other for over a year, going everywhere and making memories, etc., have been the best times of my life. *MUAH* ^.^ ? 1.19.2010 ?* **OLIVIA**

Stoopid Face I know you can never be all mine, but when I have you for those few moments in our lives, it's amazing. My double bed is lonely with only me. Miss you. **RABBIT**

My Jamaican HunHun!! almost half a decade later i'm still so into u and still don't know why! & this i want the whole world to know!!and no matter what i just want to tell U that U're the best & better than all the rest. just so U know..with us it's never off the table!Advance Happy Bday Mahal! **JB**

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 It's one of those days when you would rather be anywhere but where you are supposed to be. Chin up.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Nothing you do is ever wasted. Your big breakthrough WILL come.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 It may seem as if certain people are being deliberately obstructive, and maybe they are, but why should that be? Think about it.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 There is no need to worry about the future. You may not have gotten the breaks you wanted, but that's life.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 No matter how unsettling the changes that are taking place may be, they are all for the best in the long-term.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Sometimes, it can be all too easy to get depressed, so focus on things that bring a smile to your face.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 The secret to happiness is to keep moving forwards. It's all about self-motivation. Go for it.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You made an error of judgment and need to make amends to those who followed your advice and lost.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Most of the time your hunches are spot on, but if you trust your instincts today, it may all go wrong.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Your relationship with people in authority is more important than usual, stay in their good books.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You may think someone is keeping something from you, and maybe they are. It doesn't have to be bad.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Let certain people know that you will not allow them to get rich at your expense. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

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